

Corruption Perceptions Index

BACKGROUND

The *Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2003* is an annual report published by Transparency International (TI), a non-governmental organization dedicated to combating corruption globally. The CPI complements Transparency International's Bribe Payers Index (BPI) published in 2002.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The *CPI 2003* focuses on the degree of corruption that is perceived to exist in a country as seen by business people, academics, and risk analysts. The report shows that corruption is perceived to be high in many low income countries and in a number of high-income and "potentially high-income" countries (e.g. some currently low-income oil producers). According to the report, the potential to curb corruption lies among all parties, governments, civil society, public officials and the private sector. There is a greater need for rich countries to "...enforce international conventions to curb bribery by international companies, and that private business fulfil their obligations under the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, namely to stop bribing public officials around the world."

This year's report covers more than 133 countries, and draws on 17 surveys used from 13 independent institutions, compared to the 2002 report's 102 countries, and use of 15 surveys from 9 independent institutions. At least 3 surveys were required for a country to be in the 2003 CPI. Since its 1995 inception, the CPI has made progress in its data collection process and assessment methodologies. The name "Corruption Perceptions Index" is somewhat of a misnomer, since scores go up as the perception of corruption goes down, making it in effect really a "Freedom from Corruption Perception Index," or an "Integrity Perception Index."

MAIN FINDINGS

- TI says nine out of ten developing countries urgently need practical support to fight corruption.
- Half of developing countries received a 2003 CPI score of less than 3 out of 10, indicating a high level of corruption, 10 being a perfect "perceived to be clean of corruption" score.
- High income countries tend to be seen as relatively-corruption free. The six countries scoring higher than 9 are all higher-income countries. But some high income countries, and some described as "potentially high income" because of oil, have high levels of perceived corruption.
- Some high-income countries with low perceived corruption are paradoxically identified by the TI's BPI as having exporting companies highly disposed to pay bribes to get business.
- Of the 11 countries with pervasive corruption (score less than 2), ten are low-income.
- Countries showing improvements from 2002 to 2003 were Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway and Tunisia.
- Countries showing a downward trend in their corruption perceptions from 2002 to 2003 were Argentina, Belarus, Chile, Canada, Israel, Luxembourg, Poland, United States and Zimbabwe.

HOW TO ACCESS THIS REPORT

The full document of the *Corruption Perceptions Index 2003*, and previous publications, can be accessed at: <http://www.transparency.org/surveys/index.html#cpi>